GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:739
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2000
RACKET HATCHED BY PSUS
BASUDEB ACHARIA

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in `The Indian Express`, dated October 9, 2000 regarding unearthing a racket in bottling of LPG cylinders;

(b) If so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to bring a stringent law to punish such companies ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) to (c): The Officials of Weights & Measures Department of Government of Gujarat inspected LPG bottling plants/LPG distributorships of Public Sector Oil Companies at some locations in Gujarat during August/September, 2000 and detected some under-weight cylinders at some of the locations. The Oil Companies have deposited the requisite penalties for the said offence to the State Exchequer.

Oil Marketing Companies carry out 100% rechecking of weight on a check scale after the cylinders are filled on carousel.Before delivery and loading in the truck, filled cylinders are again subjected to statistical quality control to ensure that only cylinders of correct quality and quantity reach the distributors. LPG distributors are also under instructions to check every cylinder for soundness/correct weight before delivering to consumers.